

# Employees Warmed by Shelter Experiences

A Durham mother of three autistic children was especially glad that Special Populations Leisure Services Coordinator, (Durham Parks and Recreation Department-DPR), Kristen Randall volunteered at the Special Needs Shelter at Jordan High School. "I was just as glad to see the children from my special populations class as they were to see me," beams Randall. "I didn't know who I'd see when I got to the shelter. I just knew I wanted to be of service." In fact, Randall rendered many services - from helping the autistic children adjust to the shelter environment and visiting them daily to taking the family's clothes home to wash.

Michael McGinnis, Human Resources Benefits Manager, recounts "My shelter experience put everything into perspective. What we think we are in need of pales in comparison to the challenges that some people face everyday like hunger, finances and

basic primary needs. It was very heartening, I left feeling good in one way, but bad in that I need to do more of this type of outreach as a matter of routine." McGinnis, his wife Janet and teenage son, Graham, all volunteered at the Hillside High School shelter registering shelter patrons at the front desk and setting up cots.

McGinnis and Randall also were among the several City employees who helped staff Durham shelters. Internal Audit Director Wanda Page prepared and served food at Jordan's Special Needs Shelter. Interim Finance Director Kenneth Pennoyer posted signage, assisted citizens in wheelchairs, served food to the physically challenged and collected garbage. Bill Hess (Technology Solutions), Leon Beddingfield (Planning), Tim Grant (DPR), Belinda Staten (DPR), and Kathryn Henderson (DPR) were among the numerous other city employees who volunteered at the shelter.



(Far left) Detective Gregory Coates provided security at Jordan High School Shelter.

(Left) Youth patrons of the shelter were entertained by Deduction Production Children's Theater.

*"What we think we are in need of pales in comparison to the challenges that some people face everyday like hunger, finances and basic primary needs."*

—MICHAEL MCGINNIS, HUMAN RESOURCES BENEFITS MANAGER

## A Borrowed Generator to the Rescue

With failed attempts to borrow a generator from the National Guard and state, the medical officials at Gambro Healthcare dialysis center were almost forced to relocate 175 patients to a space meant for forty-five, and redirect others to a facility in Henderson.

Faced with the daunting task, Gambro's Regional Director Maura McAnn called the Emergency Operations Center, in an attempt to find an alternative. She was pleasantly surprised when the City of Durham Properties and Facilities Management (PFM) Department was able to not only provide the center with a generator, but came out the same day to install it.

"They installed a 75 KVA generator which allowed us to run 27 dialysis

machines, lighting and heating," recalls Center Director Tammy Ebert. "At that time we were so desperate to get the medical equipment powered, heating was secondary."

City crews not only came out on Friday to make the initial installation that ran half of the clinic, but they also came out on Saturday to move the generator, which allowed the other half of the clinic to operate.

"With 130 patients who receive treatment three times a week, the loss of power was a life or death situation," said Ebert, "The efforts of the PFM staff were greatly appreciated, and I would like to thank them personally, for they helped us save 130 lives."

## Proclamation of State of Emergency (Excerpts)



Mayor Bill Bell greets Governor Mike Easley.

*Due to a major winter storm which has occurred in the City of Durham and pursuant to City of Durham State of Emergency Ordinance and Chapter 166A of the General Statutes*

*and Article 36A Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, I have determined that a State of Emergency as defined in the City of Durham State of Emergency Ordinance exists in the City of Durham.*

*This proclamation shall become effective immediately. Proclaimed the 5th day of December 2002 at 2:00 p.m.*

— WILLIAM V. BELL,  
MAYOR, CITY OF DURHAM

# Melting Points: Getting Back to Normal

*"We are now in recovery mode. Getting back to a state of stability and normalcy is a multi-jurisdictional challenge."*

—MARCIA CONNER, CITY MANAGER

The City of Durham was among 33 North Carolina counties to be declared a federal disaster area as a result of the unprecedented December 4, 2002 ice storm and subsequent power outages. The City's preliminary cost estimate of storm-related activities is approximately \$5.1 million – 75 percent of which is eligible for federal reimbursement.

City forces, including employees, of Public Works and Solid Waste Management collected over 5,500 cubic yards of debris in the weeks following the storm. As of December 27, City Transfer Station staff had processed over 18,800 cubic yards of debris. Contract collection of storm debris removal began Monday, December 23 and is expected to continue over the next several weeks.



City and County officials held daily press briefings on recovery efforts.

In addition to the City's Transfer Station, two temporary sites have been established for the public to dispose of storm debris – Lowes Grove Elementary and Fay Street. All three sites are open to the residents of Durham City and County.

(\*See box to the right for addresses and hours of storm debris disposal sites.)



Post storm meter inspection  
(Danny Moss, Electrical Inspector)

## Durham Citizens Reconnect

To help restore power as quickly as possible, the Electrical Division of the Durham City-County Inspections Department established weekend hours on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15. Electrical inspectors were available to perform any requested electrical inspections related to the storm. As of December 18, the Inspections Department had completed 292 electrical permits that were storm related.

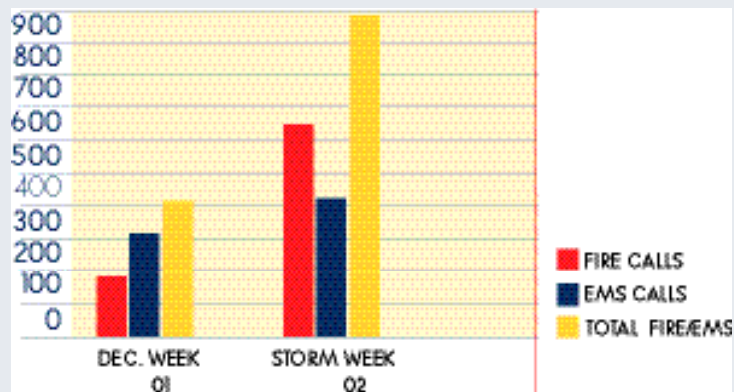
"Many citizens were not aware that the utility company is not responsible for electrical repairs on the house itself," says City-County Inspections Director Gene Bradham. "Anytime you suffer damage to the electrical service to your house, where the electrical line connects to your house, you will need to hire a licensed electrical contractor to make the necessary repairs before the utility company can restore power to your home."

In the aftermath of the ice storm, Durham City-County Inspections authorized the utility companies to reconnect electrical services also determining that the installation was safe.

The Inspections Department performed follow-ups inspections.

## Durham Fire Department Response

*Average December week in 2001  
compared to ice storm week in 2002*





# City of Durham Storm Debris Disposal Sites\*

*For Durham City and County residents only.*

## **City of Durham Transfer Station**

2115 E. Club Boulevard

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

## **Lowes Grove Elementary School**

NC Hwy 54 and Alston Avenue

Monday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## **Fay Street**

Corner of Fay and Geer Streets

Monday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Lyon Park Damage Assessment  
(Terry Logdon—Planning/Research Officer and  
Fire Inspector Ron Rogers).



Solid Waste Management crew collecting storm debris.

## FUTURE



Photo caption: In response to carbon monoxide poisoning incidents that occurred during the winter storm, The Home Depot donated 5,000 carbon monoxide alarms to the American Red Cross for distribution to Triangle counties including Durham. Accepting these are Home Depot and American Red Cross employees with Durham Fire Chief Otis Cooper, Durham Police Chief Steve Chalmers, Durham County Sheriff representative and Durham Emergency Management Director Jeff Batten.

## Next Time Around

Keep these telephone numbers handy to use as resource for winter preparedness and safety tips:

City of Durham Environmental Resources	560-4381
City of Durham Fire Department	560-4242
City of Durham Police Department	560-4427
City-County Inspections Department	560-4144
City of Durham Urban Forestry Division	560-4105
Durham Emergency Management Agency	560-0660
Solid Waste Management	560-4185
Infoline	560-4636
Web site:	<a href="http://www.ci.durham.nc.us">www.ci.durham.nc.us</a>

## Upcoming City of Durham Holidays

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
Monday, January 20, 2003

Most City of Durham offices will be closed.  
Check solid waste schedule below for garbage collection information.

## Solid Waste's Mgt. Holiday Schedule

Christmas Tree Collection: Christmas trees will be collected for recycling from January 6 through January 17, 2003. Christmas trees should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on your household garbage collection day. Trees more than 6 feet tall need to be cut in half. Remove all decorations, including tinsel, lights and ornaments, as well

as stands, nails and any other hardware. Do not place trees in bags. The trees will be collected and taken to the City's compost facility.

### Monday Customers:

Household garbage/recycling will not be collected, Monday, January 20, 2003  
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday).

The make-up day for household garbage and recycling will be Wednesday, January 22, 2003. The make-up day for yard waste collections will be Thursday, January 23, 2003.

For more information, call the Department of Solid Waste Management, 560-4185.

## Household Hazardous Waste Schedule

(January -June)

January 11

February 8

March 8 & 22

April 12 & 26

\*May 10

June 14 & 28

\* Closed the weekend of May 24th  
in observance of Memorial Day

### Household Hazardous Waste Center

1900 E. Club Boulevard  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Call Environmental Resources  
at 560-4381.

# KNOW YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS...



William V. Bell  
Mayor



Lewis A. Cheek  
Mayor Pro Tempore



John Best



Cora Cole McFadden



Howard Clement, III



Tamra Edwards



Thomas A. Stith, III

### NEW COUNCIL PROCEDURES

On December 16, 2002 the Durham City Council approved the following amendments to the Rules of Procedures for their regularly scheduled City Council Meetings and Work Sessions: Citizens who would like to speak on a matter on the agenda (other than an item previously placed on the agenda at the request of the citizen) at City Council Meetings must sign up with the City Clerk no later than the start of the meeting at 7 p.m.

During City Council Work Sessions citizens wishing to speak on a matter on the agenda (other than an item placed on the agenda under Section 3.4.1(a) at the

request of the citizen) must sign up with the City Clerk no later than the start of the meeting. Effective Thursday, February 6, 2003, Council worksessions will begin at 1 p.m. (instead of noon).

Regularly scheduled City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays at 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 101 City Hall Plaza.

Regularly scheduled City Council Work Sessions are held on Thursdays of the same week of each Monday night Council Meeting in the Committee Room of City Hall. For more information call the City Clerk's Office at 560-4166.

THIS CITY OF DURHAM REPORT TO CITIZENS is a publication of the City's Office of Public Affairs, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC. For more information about City of Durham services, call 560-4123 or visit the City's web site at [www.ci.durham.nc.us](http://www.ci.durham.nc.us).

Also tune in to **CITYLIFE**, the City's half-hour talk show that airs live on the first Thursday of each month on Cable Channel 23 at 7:30 p.m. The show is rebroadcast every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. until the next live show.

